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# Agri-News

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## WEATHER DELAYS COTTON AND SOYBEAN HARVEST

A persistent wet weather pattern throughout most of October caused delays in the harvest of the State's fall crops and contributed to a decline in expected corn and cotton production. Projected yields for cotton fell from the last forecast as harvest lagged at least 2 full weeks behind normal pace all month. State Statistician Debra Kenerson stated, "With frequent and often heavy showers during the past month, producers have become increasingly concerned about damage to the cotton crop." Kenerson further stated, "Conversely, the above normal rainfall has been beneficial for the State's late planted soybeans as overall forecasted yield increased a bushel from October 1. It also aided farmers in stripping their tobacco, provided moisture for drought-stressed pastures, and helped fill stock ponds." Virtually all the State's corn had been harvested by the middle of October, on the pace with the 5-year average. Although growers have experienced some hindrances, cotton and soybean yields are expected to be better than the 5-year averages according to a November 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. The November survey collects farmers' expectations of final yields assuming normal weather conditions through harvest and showed the following results: **Cotton**, 651 pounds of lint per acre, down 9 pounds from October and 112 pounds from 2001; **Corn**, 106 bushels per acre, down one bushel from October and 26 bushels below the previous year; **Soybeans**, 32 bushels per acre, up one bushel from the previous month but 2 bushels less than a year ago.

### COTTON PRODUCTION 22 PERCENT BELOW 2001

Cotton production is forecast at 760,000 bales, down 1 percent from last month and 22 percent below 2001's record production. Yield is forecast at 651 pounds, 112 pounds below last year's record. Producers faced many challenges during October as wet weather caused regrowth after defoliation, delayed harvest, and reduced quality. A number of acres have also been lost due to flooding along rivers and creeks. Harvest of the estimated 560,000 acres had reached 58 percent completion by the week ending November 3, three full weeks behind the normal pace.

### CORN PRODUCTION DOWN 20 PERCENT

Corn production is forecast at 65.7 million bushels, 20 percent below a year ago. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 106 bushels per acre, down 26 bushels from last year's record high. Acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 620,000 acres, the same as 2001. The main story was mild temperatures and wet conditions for Tennessee producers during the month of October. Virtually all of the State's acreage had been harvested by the middle of October, with rains causing delays in harvesting the remaining acreage. As of October 13, ninety-four percent of the corn acreage was harvested, on pace with the 5-year average.

### SOYBEAN PRODUCTION HIGHEST IN 5 YEARS

The State's soybean production is forecast at 35.8 million bushels, up 3 percent from October 1 and one percent above 2001. If realized, this will be the highest production level since 1997. The State's soybean yield is expected to average 32 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last month but 2 bushels below last year. Rains during September and October, along with favorable temperatures, aided in the development of late planted soybeans. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.12 million acres, 8 percent above a year ago. Tennessee soybean producers have struggled to get mature beans out of the fields with October's mostly overcast and wet conditions. Growers are concerned with the amount of damage caused by persistent rainfall. There have been reports of several acres lost due to flooding in some low-lying areas. Currently, harvest progress is nearly two full weeks behind the normal pace.

(OVER)

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 1, 2002, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2001	Indicated 2002	2001	Indicated 2002	2001	Indicated 2002
Thousands							
Number of Units							
Thousands							
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	620	620	132	106	81,840	65,720
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	615	560	763	651	978	760
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,100	2,050	2.20	2.10	4,620	4,305
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,700	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,040	1,120	34.0	32.0	35,360	35,840
Tobacco, All	lb.	39.69	35.90	2,189	1,977	86,893	70,990
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	6.5	5.0	3,000	2,900	19,500	14,500
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.52	.40	3,175	3,100	1,651	1,240
Burley (31)	lb.	32.0	30.0	2,000	1,800	64,000	54,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.67	.50	2,600	2,500	1,742	1,250
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	300	54.0	46.0	18,360	13,800
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	—	---	---	---	9,629,100	8,910,600
Corn for grain	bu.	68,808	70,541	138.2	127.6	9,506,840	9,003,364
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	13,827.7	12,861.4	705	665	20,302.8	17,815.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.87	76,437	75,792
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,441,400	2,531,700
Soybeans	bu.	72,975	71,799	39.6	37.5	2,890,682	2,689,691
Tobacco, All	lb.	432.40	434.30	2,293	2,040	991,519	886,020
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	9.80	7.50	3,135	2,900	30,720	21,750
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	3.62	2.80	3,419	3,271	12,377	9,160
Burley (31)	lb.	164.30	161.50	2,033	1,880	334,066	303,066
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.42	2.70	2,821	2,744	9,648	7,410
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,295	29,651	43.5	38.5	1,361,479	1,142,802

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

**REMINDER:** All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about November 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.